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metro

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Thursday, December 15, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

WILD AT HART

No one in the Big 5, let alone the country, can stop Wildcat Josh Hart. 32



Need something notarized at 3 a.m.? 2

Edward Norton wants to cheer us up. 16



HOLIDAY SHOPPING CRUNCH TIME

24 gift ideas for kids, foodies and fashionistas. 21-29



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1. What did Philadelphia police accuse a Brooklyn man of doing in Chestnut Hill last month?
2. How many points did Villanova guard Josh Hart score in a blowout win vs. Temple?
3. What animated film did "Collateral Beauty" actor Edward Norton do voice work on this year?

3 things you need to know

EX-CIA CHIEF SAYS TRUMP RISKS BLAME FOR ATTACK IF HE SKIPS BRIEFINGS

Former CIA director Leon Panetta said on Wednesday that President-elect Donald Trump risked being blamed after any potential attack on the United States if he refused to receive more regular intelligence briefings. U.S. officials told Reuters that Trump is receiving an average of one presidential intelligence briefing a week - far fewer than most of his recent predecessors — but that his deputy Mike Pence gets briefings around six days a week. Panetta, a former Democratic Congressman who served as CIA director and defense secretary in President Barack Obama's first term, told the Arab Strategy Forum, a conference sponsored by the government of Dubai, that Trump's aversion "can't last." **REUTERS**

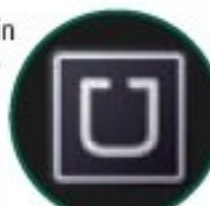


ASHLEY MADISON OWNER TO PAY \$1.66M TO SETTLE FTC CASE

The owner of hacked infidelity website Ashley Madison will pay \$1.66 million to settle an investigation by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and several U.S. states into lax data security and deceptive practices, the company and authorities said on Wednesday. The remainder of a \$17.5 million settlement was suspended based on privately-held Ruby Corp.'s inability to pay, the office of New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman said in a statement. The company first disclosed it was the target of an FTC investigation in a Reuters interview in July. The agreement follows investigations by the FTC, 13 states and the District of Columbia, which found the company had lax security practices in place at the time of the July 2015 breach. **REUTERS**

UBER LAUNCHES SELF-DRIVING CAR FLEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

Uber has rolled out its self-driving car fleet in its hometown of San Francisco, despite lacking the proper permit that state regulators say is required. Starting Wednesday, riders who request an UberX, one of the company's budget ride options, may be matched with a self-driving Uber. It is unclear how many of these cars Uber has in San Francisco. Launching the program kicked off a battle with the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which said on Tuesday that Uber does not have a permit to test autonomous vehicles on California roads, and demanded the company follow the permitting process that is in place. "Twenty manufacturers have already obtained permits to test hundreds of cars on California roads. Uber shall do the same," the agency said in a written statement. **REUTERS**

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016For the
expanded version,
visit metro.usJudith Lawrence, owner of Center City Notary, inside her offices in the Land Title building at Broad and Sansom streets. **RANDI FAIR**

Business owner offers city's only 24-hour notary service

Judith Lawrence started her whole life over when she opened up the city's only 24-hour notary business.

**SAM NEWHOUSE**
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Some say it's hard to start over when you're a woman past 50.

But that's exactly what Judith Lawrence did when she bought the decades-old Center City Notary business, became her own boss and turned the shop into Philadelphia's only 24-hour notary.

"At first, I was terrified," said Lawrence, a South Jersey native and current Center City resident. "I thought, 'Should I really be doing this?'"

Lawrence is in her early 60s and had to reinvent herself after abruptly being laid off from her job of 20 years as an assistant at a law firm.

"I was not the person you see sitting here," she

said of that period.

Lawrence became a notary public in 2001 while working at the law firm. So to keep busy, she started doing notaries on a freelance basis. She met and befriended the 84-year-old notary public who formerly owned Center City Notary.

One day, he told her, "Well I'm done, and I think you should buy this business," she recalled. "And the rest is history."

That was just under a year ago. Since then, Lawrence has redecorated her office in the Land Title building in Center City and modernized the equipment. A copy of Sheryl Sandberg's female business empowerment manual "Lean In" pokes out from a bookshelf, and new artworks decorate the walls. She has nine independent contractors, but is the only full-time employee.

She has worked with more than 3,000 customers.

"Judy grew the business to be more up-to-date," said Lawrence's

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friend Linda Mitchell, who helps out with the business. "It's perfect for her, her personality, all her skills rolled into one."

Why stay open 24 hours? She points to customers like the real estate businessman who needed her to notarize paperwork for a \$35 million deal at 3 a.m. one day. He needed to submit the documents to a judge by 6 a.m.

Technically, all a notary public does is verify that a signature is authentic. But notarization is required on a variety of legal documents.

On Wednesday, Law-

rence started at 9:30 a.m. in a psych ward. She was there to notarize power-of-attorney paperwork for a patient's family.

An hour and a half later, she was at an advertising agency notarizing more papers. From there, she returned to her office and notarizing divorce papers for a couple "who absolutely hated each other," she said. "It took 45 minutes to do what could have been done in 12 minutes."

Lawrence said she loves the work because of all the interesting people she meets.

"One time, a 91-year-old woman came in pushing a little shopping cart," Lawrence recalled. "She goes, 'I need a will and I'm in a hurry. I gotta go home.' I say, 'Where's home?' She says, 'Heaven, hon. I'm 91 years old and I gotta get to heaven.'"

But helping people through the job is what makes her "feel like Tarzan," as she put it.

"My only regret is I should have started doing this 25 years ago."

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A white graphic of a Santa Mail letterbox with a red star on top. The words 'SANTA MAIL' are written in red, bold, uppercase letters on the front of the box.

**SANTA
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Start-ups, entrepreneurs embrace shared office spaces

Co-working spaces are booming in Center City, says a city commerce official.



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For fitness guru Kevin Kreider, moving his business into one of those co-working spaces he heard about made perfect sense.

"It allows you to separate your work space from your home," said Kreider, whose company is called Pursue Fitness. "It's great how they set it up for you to meet people. I've increased my training business to the point where I can't accept clients."

Co-working spaces are flourishing in Philadelphia. Having an inexpensive office space appeals to savvy tech start-ups, say owners of co-working spaces, but all kinds of businesses seem to be in-



Co-worker spaces such as WeWork in Center City are growing in popularity. **WEWORK**

terested in the concept.

Kreider operates his online training business by himself and rents space in Center City from a company called WeWork.

Individual memberships at WeWork start at \$350 per month and are based on how much space is needed. Members can also reserve conference rooms or event spaces at different locations.

Co-working spaces are typically large and open office spaces with plenty of conference rooms and

amenities such as coffee, snacks and beer.

"We're right in the middle of a boom," said Archana Saha of the Philadelphia Department of Commerce. "[Co-working spaces] are trying to accommodate the need for all of these founders. We've seen organic growth with businesses starting here, but we're also starting to see offices coming in to Philly."

"There's a shift in the working culture and the type of environment peo-

ple want to work in," said WeWork Philadelphia Senior Community Manager Anita Shannon. "It's not just with millennials."

WeWork members have access to an entire network of entrepreneurs and businesses, she said. Seventy percent of WeWork members have collaborated with another member, and 50 percent have done business with another member.

Benjamin's Desk, another company offering co-working space, also is seeing its business expand beyond start-ups, said CEO Anthony Maher.

"Over the past few years we've had a lot of Philly start-ups, but more corporations are putting teams in our space," he said. "We also have a lot of young entrepreneurs and freelancers. We can't keep up with the demand."

For the expanded version, visit metro.us

BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help other's and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro

Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. **METRO**



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BRIEFS

Two SEPTA workers injured in manhole fire in West Philly

Two SEPTA workers were injured in a manhole fire Wednesday morning in West Philadelphia, officials said.

One worker was transported to the Temple University Hospital Burn Unit with first-degree burns to his hand and face, officials said. The other worker was released after being treated for minor injuries.

The fire also disrupted power

to the block, near 49th Street and Windsor Avenue. It was restored a short time later, witnesses said.

Firefighters responded at 11:51 a.m. to calls about the fire, and by noon, they had requested additional fire companies, a department spokesman said. It was eventually brought under control.

The two SEPTA workers opened the manhole cover to investigate reports of an odor in the area, SEPTA spokesman An-

drew Busch said. They attempted to find the source of the odor with teams from Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) because the site is near the Route 34 trolley tracks.

"They weren't inside at the time, but there was sort of a flash fire," Busch said. "Flames came out of this manhole."

Eyewitnesses described hearing an explosion underground, then seeing the fire. Video from the scene showed flames shooting from the open

manhole.

The odor originated with a burnout of an underground SEPTA transformer, said PGW spokesman Barry O'Sullivan. He said PGW found no evidence of a gas leak, but were still examining the area on Wednesday evening for any damage to their infrastructure.

The exact cause of the fire was still under investigation by the Philadelphia Fire Marshal's Office. **SAM NEWHOUSE**



Chefs at work. **PIXABAY**

Philly, New York City, Boston among 'best cities for chefs'

Can you guess the best place for a chef?

Chef-friendly cities

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People are eating out more than ever, and that means more money for chefs and restaurants.

Last year was the first on record during which Americans spent more money eating out than they did buying groceries, according to Quartz, a digital news site.

There are number of reasons for this shift — increasing competition and mass food production driving costs down — but dining trends have been leaning more and more toward eating out ever since women entered the workforce.

Mix that with millennials' tendency to spend frivolously, and you've got yourself a thriving restaurant industry — Americans spent more than \$50 billion on eating out in 2015.

With that kind of money on the scene, it's no surprise the industry expects to see a 9 percent increase in the amount of jobs available for chefs and head cooks by 2024.

It might have you wondering if you should try your hand at culinary school. But since opportunities can vary from state to state, Sparefoot teamed up with Indeed and Zillow to get a list of the of "The 10 Best Cities for Chefs in America," by analyzing job availability, average annual salary, salary as a percentage of median

10. San Francisco
9. Los Angeles
8. Miami
7. Washington D.C.
6. Dallas
5. New York City
4. Boston
3. Chicago
2. Philadelphia
1. Atlanta

home price, and median annual rent as a percentage of salary.

Philly came in at No. 2 on the list, thanks in large part to affordable housing. Chefs here make an average of \$56,000 a year and spend only \$14,544 a year on rent. The median home price is also extremely low, at \$159,000.

Fourth on the list was Boston, which boasts the second-highest average salary in the nation for chefs at \$67,000 a year. However, housing can be pricey. Median annual rents top \$30,000 and the median home price is \$629,000.

New York City came in at No. 5, offering prospective chefs the most job opportunities by far — jobs here account for about 20 percent of total chef jobs available in the U.S. It lost points on housing affordability. Chefs in New York City make an average of \$64,000 a year, but with median rents at more than \$28,200 a year and median home prices hovering around \$725,000, it can be tough to afford to live there.

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—Christine Walevska, "goddess of the cello", watched Shen Yun 5 times

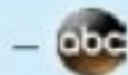
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Democratic lawmakers: Trump's Washington hotel a conflict of interest

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump must divest his luxury Washington hotel in a building leased from the federal government because the arrangement violates conflict-of-interest rules, congressional Democrats said on Wednesday.

The General Services Administration, which manages property owned by the federal government, including the Old Post Office housing the Trump International Hotel, has said the lease would violate federal conflict-of-interest rules once the Republican businessman is sworn in on Jan. 20, according to a letter to the agency from lawmakers.

The letter referred to a Dec. 8 briefing to congressional staffers by a GSA



The Trump hotel in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

official whom the letter did not name.

"The Deputy Commissioner made clear that Mr. Trump must divest himself not only of managerial control, but of all ownership interest as well," Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland and three other Democrats said in the letter, which was made public on Wednesday.

The hotel is a few blocks from the White House and has become

a rallying point for anti-Trump protesters since it opened in September. It is among businesses that could create unprecedented conflicts of interest for Trump, a New York real estate developer and former reality TV star.

Trump's company has not responded to the GSA's concerns about the potential conflict, the Democratic lawmakers said. They asked the agency for documents about the lease, profit and expense projections and legal memos about the conflict of interest.

The hotel lease includes a standard GSA provision barring members of Congress or other elected federal officials — such as the president — from having any part of it. REUTERS

BRIEF

Yahoo discloses new data breach affecting one billion accounts

Yahoo said that it has identified a new breach that occurred in August 2013 and involved data associated with more than one billion user accounts, double the number affected in a different breach disclosed in September.

Yahoo said it believed the latest incident was likely distinct from the breach disclosed in

September, when it said information associated with at least 500 million user accounts was stolen in 2014.

The 2014 breach was believed to be the world's biggest known cyber breach by far.

The company, which is being acquired by Verizon Communications Inc. (VZ.N) for \$4.83 billion, said an unauthorized third party had stolen the data in the latest breach and that it was working

closely with law enforcement.

The company said it has not been able to identify the intrusion associated with the theft.

Yahoo said the stolen user account information may have included names, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, hashed passwords and, in some cases, encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers.

REUTERS

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Prosecutors want jury to hear from slew of Cosby accusers

Cosby faces sexual assault allegations from about 50 women altogether, though the Pennsylvania case is the only criminal prosecution to result.

A slew of women who say Bill Cosby lured them into sexual assaults with promises of friendship or career advice could show that the comedian was a serial predator who preyed on his victims for decades, Pennsylvania prosecutors argued on Wednesday.

Judge Steven O'Neill of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas is weighing whether to allow prosecutors to call 13 accusers as witnesses at Cosby's trial next year, in addition to the woman

whose allegations of sexual abuse form the basis for the case.

A defense lawyer for the comedian, Brian McMonagle, asserted that the women's claims are "ancient, remote, incredible and uncorroborated" and would rob Cosby of his right to a fair trial.

The two-day hearing, which began on Tuesday, is crucial for both sides. If prosecutors prevail, Cosby would face a parade of trial witnesses describing attacks going back four decades.

If not, Cosby's defense lawyers could focus on undermining just one account: that of Andrea Constand, whose allegations of a 2004 drug-fueled sexual assault led to the Pennsylvania charges.

The lead prosecutor, Kevin Steele, acknowledged that reality on Wednesday.



Bill Cosby, who built a family-friendly image as the star of "The Cosby Show" television comedy, has denied any wrongdoing. GETTY IMAGES

"Without this evidence, we would be forced to rely on what I'm sure will be argued is the uncorroborated testimony of the victim," he told O'Neill.

But McMonagle said the prior accusations were inconsistent and

lacking details like specific dates, making it impossible to defend against them.

Cosby's lawyers emphasized that every one of the 13 accusers came forward after Constand and that most are clients of celebrity civil rights lawyer

Gloria Allred, who was sitting in the courtroom.

The use of "prior bad act" evidence is typically disallowed to avoid unfairly prejudicing jurors against the defendant based on actions unrelated to the case at hand. But prosecutors can be permitted to introduce such evidence if it shows a clear pattern of behavior.

Steele said the accounts from Constand and the 13 other women share "remarkable similarities." In each case, he said, Cosby targeted young women, established trust and then offered them intoxicants to incapacitate them.

But McMonagle argued the opposite, saying the alleged assaults bore little resemblance to Constand's case based on their locations and the specific allegations.

REUTERS

BRIEF

US fines airline \$1.6M for violating tarmac delay rule

The Transportation Department fined American Airlines \$1.6 million for violating a rule that prohibits long tarmac delays.

The department said it found American had allowed a number of domestic flights to remain on the tarmac for more than three hours without allowing passengers an opportunity to get off the plane. The fine matched the amount that was assessed against Southwest Airlines in 2015 for violating the same rule.

American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller said the company was pleased to have resolved the issue. "It's worth noting that a large portion of the settlement is related to a winter weather event that occurred nearly four years ago in Charlotte," he said.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said the "tarmac rule" is meant to prevent passengers from being trapped in aircraft on the ground for hours on end.

Under government rules, U.S. airlines operating aircraft with 30 or more seats are prohibited from allowing domestic flights to remain on the tarmac for more than three hours without giving passengers an opportunity to leave the plane with some limited exceptions. REUTERS

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C.E.OH NO!

Week by week, as the inauguration looms, the cabinet for our soon-to-be president, Donald Trump, is taking shape. As predicted, it includes a number of names from the big world of business; folks with years at the helms of major corporations, steering multimillion-dollar deals, and managing global enterprises. Imagine the little Monopoly guy, only without the top hat. Or if you're feeling less charitable, Monty Burns.

And many people are flinging out some version of the following statement as if it is a truth plucked from the tablets of Moses: "Oh, these are great business leaders, and that's just what our country needs!"

Really? The idea that successful businesspeople inherently make good governmental figures is akin to the notion that great running backs will automatically be wonderful point guards. The evidence speaks against it. Part of the problem is that business and government

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously." @tomforemancnn



are entirely different things.

The chief goal of business is making money. Sure, any given firm may provide a valuable service, create jobs, even fulfill a role in the destiny of our culture ... but the main purpose is still to rake in the green. Now consider some of the chief aims of

governments: providing a common defense, a stable currency, justice, education, crime control, public health, environmental safety and on and on. Of course governments use a lot of money, but making it is not job one.

What's more, CEOs often have nearly dictatorial powers while people in top government jobs are substantially limited by laws, regulations, customs, oversight and political realities.

In short, the idea that someone with a successful record in industry is automatically well-suited for a role in government is ludicrous. There may be crossover skills, and certainly some people have spun their business acumen into political gold. Perhaps Mr. Trump's picks will prove to be those exceptional souls, and while I'm at it maybe he will too.

But to borrow from the parlance of the bosses and their golf buddies at the country club: It's not a gimmie.

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Fed raises rates, sees faster pace of increases in 2017

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter point on Wednesday and signaled a faster pace of increases in 2017 as the Trump administration takes over with promises to boost growth through tax cuts, spending and deregulation.

The rate increase, regarded as a virtual certainty by financial markets in the wake of a string of generally strong economic reports, raised the target federal funds rate 25 basis points to between 0.50 percent and 0.75 percent. Bond yields and the dollar rose after the rate decision while stocks were mixed with financials and tech the only two sectors to show gains.

"In view of realized and expected labor market conditions and inflation, the committee decided to raise the target range," the central bank's policy-setting committee said in its unanimous statement after a two-day meeting.

"Job gains have been solid in recent months and the unemployment rate has declined," the Fed said, noting that market-based measures of inflation compensation had moved up "considerably."

More significant was a fresh batch of Fed policymaker forecasts



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. GETTY IMAGES

"Job gains have been solid in recent months and the unemployment rate has declined."

The Fed

that indicated the current once-a-year pace of rate increases will accelerate next year. Markets and the Fed appeared to be close on pricing with Fed futures markets pricing in at least two and possibly three hikes, up from one to two prior to the meeting.

With President-elect Donald Trump planning a simultaneous round of tax cuts and increased spending on infrastructure, central bank policymakers shifted their outlook to one of slightly faster growth, lower unemployment and inflation just under the Fed's 2 percent target.

The Fed's median outlook for rates rose to three quarter-point increases in 2017 from two as of September. That would be followed by another three increases in both 2018 and 2019 before the rate levels off at a long-run "normal" 3 percent.

REUTERS

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Aleppo assault likely a war crime, says UN as evacuation stalls

There were clashes on the ground later in the day, with rebels saying they launched an attack against government forces using suicide car bombs.

Plans to evacuate besieged rebel districts of Aleppo were under threat on Wednesday as renewed airstrikes and shelling rocked the Syrian city in a bombardment the United Nations said "most likely constitutes war crimes."

Iran, one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's main backers, imposed new conditions on a ceasefire deal, saying it wanted the simultaneous evacuation of wounded from two villages besieged by rebel fighters, according to rebel and U.N. sources.

There was no sign of that happening. Instead airstrikes, shelling and gunfire erupted in Aleppo and Turkey accused government forces of breaking the truce agreed less than a day before. Syrian state television said rebel shelling killed six people.

A ceasefire brokered by Russia, Assad's most powerful ally, and Turkey was intended to end years of fighting in the



A view shows Syrian pro-government forces walking in the ancient Umayyad mosque in the old city of Aleppo. GETTY IMAGES

city, giving the Syrian leader his biggest victory in more than five years of war. The evacuation of rebel-held areas was expected to start in the early hours of Wednesday, but did not materialize.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein said he was appalled that the deal appeared to have collapsed.

"While the reasons for the breakdown in the ceasefire are disputed, the resumption of extremely heavy bom-

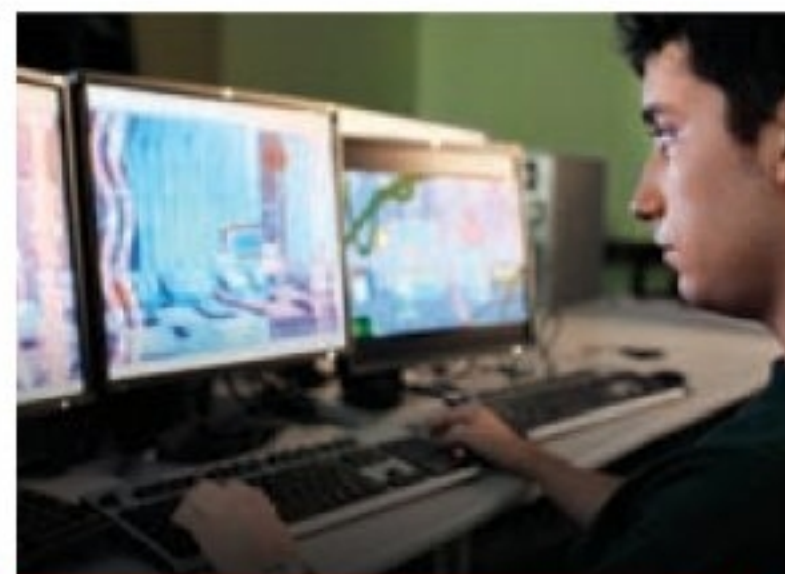
bardment by the Syrian government forces and their allies on an area packed with civilians is almost certainly a violation of international law and most likely constitutes war crimes," he added.

There was no immediate indication when the evacuation of civilians and rebel fighters might take place but a pro-opposition TV station said it could be delayed until Thursday. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Russian leader Vladimir Putin

agreed in a phone call to make a joint effort to start the process, Turkish presidential sources said.

There was no sign of Iran's conditions being met. Insurgents fired shells at the two majority-Shi'ite villages from which Tehran wanted wounded to be evacuated, Foua and Kefraya, in Idlib province west of Aleppo, causing some casualties, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

REUTERS



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John Mayer posts the shadiest tweet on Taylor Swift's birthday

John Mayer has quite the extensive celebrity dating history. Jennifer Aniston, Jessica Simpson and Katy Perry have all had the honor — or misfortune, depending on whom you ask — to call him bae. But it was Taylor Swift who, after their four-month fling ended in 2010, penned a song called "Dear John" blasting the singer for playing "dark, twisted games." It may be that Swift isn't the only one

with a bad taste in her mouth. Her birthday was Tuesday, and in a now-deleted tweet, John Mayer called Dec. 13 the "lamest day of the year." He later clarified that the tweet wasn't about his ex, but a fan took a screenshot of the tweet, so it will forever live on the internet, further evidence that John Mayer is probably a jerk.

the word

SESALI BOWEN
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Half of 'Property Brothers' gets engaged

It's been a good week for Drew Scott, one half of HGTV's "Property Brothers." (He's the metrosexual one, in case you get him mixed up with his brother Jonathan.) On Tuesday, Drew proposed to his longtime girlfriend, Linda Phan, at Piano Piano in Toronto, reports People magazine. The 38-year-old had been

planning the surprise proposal for weeks, and apparently it was worth it. He gushed about his fiancée, "I've never met another woman like her, and once you do, you want to be with her forever." Drew recorded his own version of Train's "Marry Me" to be played at the restaurant and had a cake decorated with

illustrations from Dr. Seuss' "Oh the Places You'll Go," Phan's favorite book, changing the words to "Oh the Places We'll Go." After she said yes, they went to another venue, where friends and family were waiting to party with the happy couple. We're glad to know HGTV isn't all divorce and exorcisms now.



Double Trouble

Sometimes the only thing better than a hot celebrity is one who looks exactly like him or her. We're not talking about Katy Perry-Zoey Deschanel doppelganger situations, either. These real-life twins have us seeing double in the best possible way. Head over to Metro.us for the full list.



Melanie C. opens up about eating disorder

The singer known around the world as Sporty Spice, Melanie Chisholm, wasn't always the picture of happiness that she exud-

ed as a member of the Spice Girls. Chisholm tells "Entertainment Tonight": "I joined the Spice Girls when I was 20, and it was an insane time. I developed an eating disorder. I was in the spotlight, being photographed constantly, and I started to become self-conscious of my body image."

Chisholm says she was in denial about her condition "for a long time" but wanted to get better and underwent multiple forms of therapy to overcome her issues. Today, she has a healthy relationship with food. Self-care and healing — that's some real girl power.



Lamar Odom gets his own reality show



Just days after Lamar Odom voluntarily checked himself into rehab near San Diego, we have more informa-

tion on what may have triggered the visit. According to TMZ, the approaching birthday of his deceased son and the finalization of his divorce from Khloe Kardashian played roles in Odom's decision to tighten the reins on his sobriety. Seems smart — even smarter

would be to leverage it.

Us Magazine is reporting that Odom will be getting his own show about recovery. Could the timing have been any more, ahem, perfect? Odom was clean when he checked into the rehab facility last week. Is he doing double duty with his voluntary stint, starting fresh for the New Year like a source told the gossip mag and stirring up some buzz — and possible content — for his new reality show? We wouldn't be surprised. He's learned from the best.

On Viola Davis' great #SeeHer speech

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, *legion of leia* (www.legionofleia.com)



Last Sunday night, the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Television Journalists Association held the Critics' Choice Awards. This year, we had an award that brought me to tears: the



Viola Davis took the stage at the Critics' Choice Awards on Dec. 11 and delivered a helluva speech. GETTY IMAGES

first #SeeHer Award. It's the result of a campaign started by the Association of National Advertisers and its Alliance for Family Entertainment, and it's backed by the White House. It's an

effort to eliminate bias against women in advertising and in the media by increasing the "accurate portrayal of girls and women" by 20 percent by 2020.

The award was won

by Viola Davis, who was nominated for her role in "How to Get Away with Murder" and who won Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Fences." This woman is beyond accomplished,

and she took on an issue that actresses rarely speak about: overcoming the self-consciousness that comes with expectations of beauty.

There were very few dry eyes in the house, at least from my vantage point. We've all been through this. We all know the feeling of looking accomplished and still feeling like we have to lose weight or dress differently. She felt it, too, but she overcame it. I just wanted to share the speech with you.

"It's hard to accept being a role model for women when you're trying to lose weight," Davis said. "But it's true. I've always discovered the heart of my characters, I guess, by asking, 'Why?' When I was handed Annalise Keating [on "Murder"], I said, 'She's sexy, she's mysterious,' you know? I'm used to playing women where I've got

to gain 40 pounds and wear an apron, so I said, 'Oh God, I've got to lose weight. I've got to learn how to walk like Kerry Washington in heels. You know, I gotta lose my belly.'

"And then I asked myself, 'Well, why do I have to do all of that?' I truly believe that the privilege of a lifetime is being who you are, and I just recently embraced that at 51." She continued: "I think my strongest power is that at 10 o'clock every Thursday night, I want you to come into my world. I am not going to come into yours. You come into my world and you sit with me, my size, my hue, my age, and you sit and you experience. And I think that's the only power I have as an artist. So I thank you for this award. And I do see her. Just like I see me."

Viola Davis, you are awesome. We all are.

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Edward Norton plays an exec who, in addition to helping a grieving friend (Will Smith), tries to reconnect with his semi-estranged young daughter (Kylie Rogers) in "Collateral Beauty." **BARRY WETCHER**

The Oscar-nominee says right now is weirdly perfect for "Collateral Beauty."



MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

Edward Norton doesn't do a lot of feel-good movies. He does heavy cinema. He's a real actor. He'll do comedies, like "Sausage Party." (And "Birdman" is pretty funny.) But something like the warm-hearted "Collateral Beauty" is rare for him. A holiday dramedy, it concerns a businessman (Will Smith) who's become a recluse three years after

the death of his young daughter. To snap him out of it, his friends/colleagues (Norton, Kate Winslet and Michael Pena) hire actors (Helen Mirren, Keira Knightley and Jacob Latimore) to pretend to be spiritual beings, who he thinks no one but him can see. Positive (and sometimes comedic) though it is, it's also a stark film about grief, trauma and death.

It's strange to see a movie this positive about life and the world right now.

I've been saying to people, "If you hated this election cycle, you'll love 'Collateral Beauty.'" [Laughs] There

are so many dimensions to the whole experience this year. It's going to take time. And it's still unfolding — that's what's so crazy. We're in this very, very, very strange, new period right now. It's like a veil has been dropped. Sometimes I feel like the Republican Party was an 18-wheeler, but the tractor-trailer came off the cab. You have this corporate plutocracy driving all this working-class rage, and managing to corral it for a while and hoodwink it, bamboozle it. Then it's like the tractor-trailer came off the cab and went careening down the highway on its own.

This movie is sort of about what we're going through: It's about dealing honestly with pain and grief and death, at a time when we need to be honest with what's going on in the world. An old friend of mine [Toby Emmerich], who runs the studio making this film, called me and said, "I got Will Smith in this thing, and I really want to pull you together. It's a movie I want to have out for the holidays." As soon as he said "holidays," I said, "You got the wrong guy, Toby! [Laughs] That ain't my bag." He said, "There's a kind of old school 'It's a Wonderful Life' wisdom in this thing." I read it, and I

was quite surprised by the very mature wisdom. I actually think my friend was right. I think the underlying message, which is very apt for the end of the year, is that there's a value to remembering that pain and loss are intrinsic parts of life. It's not that you can get through them, but you can have a wider, deeper life because of them.

It's a positive movie about embracing that death is a fact of life. [Laughs] Exactly. Well, thanks to Trump, we're all probably going to die within the next two years.



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Where to eat on Christmas Eve in Philly

things to do

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Embrace the seasonal ambiance at The Little Lion in Old City. PROVIDED

Cozy up at one of these four local restaurants.



JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Christmas Eve is quite possibly the most magical night of the year — for kids eagerly anticipating a visit from Santa Claus and adults who are happy to be in the home stretch of holiday stress. But where to feast? You could cook up dinner at home; but you have Christmas Day for that. Why not go out on the town with the family and enjoy a memorable meal together — no cleanup required. Here are four local restaurants serving up quite the holiday spread.

Fine Palate

Looking for a place to celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes? Fine Palate has you covered. For only \$65, enjoy ossetra caviar, salt roasted oyster, Mediterranean

octopus salad, scungilli San Marzano, spaghetti vongole, escabeche and Spanish lobster paella. Dessert is also included. Please note that the restaurant will not be open for lunch service. 231 S. 15th St. finepalategroup.com

The Little Lion

If you're dreaming of an Old City Christmas Eve, dining at The Little Lion comes with all the trimmings, decked out from head to toe in twinkling lights and holiday greenery. Serving up comfort food favorites like prime rib, smoked glazed ham

and cheddar grits, guests can enjoy a dinner menu that includes three sides, two entrees and individual desserts for only \$40. They will also be open for brunch until 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. 243 Chestnut St. thelittlelionphilly.com

Bridget Foy's

This Society Hill staple offers a perfect view of Headhouse Square — with its cobblestone and decked out Christmas tree. A special a la carte menu will be available from 4-9 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and will feature

items like seared swordfish, sticky toffee pudding and spiked hot cocoa for the adults at the table. 200 South St. bridgetfoys.com

Taproom on 19th

Perhaps you're still rushing around doing last minute shopping on Christmas Eve? There's no need to go hungry — Taproom

on 19th is open from 11-2 a.m. that day. Offering seafood entrees and steak specials, simmer down with a beer or two and brace yourself for a full day with the extended family on Christmas. 2400 S. 19th St. Taproomon19th.com



Christmas Eve scungilli San Marzano at Fine Palate PROVIDED

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'A Year with Frog and Toad' isn't mere child's play

Actor Jeff Coon talks children's theater's relevance for the community, kids and adults.

KYLE V. HILLER
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Another year has come and is nearly gone, and the performance of "A Year with Frog and Toad" is carrying a hefty load on its shoulders into 2017. The Arden Theatre Company's third presentation of the play bears more significance and relevance than it ever has, and co-lead actor Jeffrey Coon admits the tenor is different this time around. The play serves foundational values and principles to children that also function as critical reminders to adults in what has been an emotionally exhausting year for America.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" is the third coming of one of the Arden's



Jeffrey Coon wakes up into song as Frog in "A Year with Frog and Toad." PROVIDED

most treasured children's theater productions. The story unveils the budding and unlikely friendship of the cheerful Frog and the grumpy Toad through four seasons, seeding life lessons along the way. The first performance made its way to the Arden in 2004, a year that featured flip phones, the dawn of

commercial broadband internet, George Bush and Fantasia as the reigning "American Idol." Lead actors Coon and Ben Dible did not have children of their own, much like many of the parents participating in this year's show. Speaking with Coon, being a parent changes your perspective on things. "We have the

responsibility to take care of our children and to do right by them at all times." Being responsible for another person means giving a large part of yourself to someone who needs it. The importance of children's theater is setting those values early, and "A Year

with Frog and Toad" does that for its youthful audience.

"How do we take care of each other as parents and as members of the community?" Coon proposed in consideration of what makes children's theater relevant to

both kids and adults. "We don't always get along together but we do what we can to do well by each other."

The characters in "A Year with Frog and Toad" observe their world and its changes through the seasons, sharing their wonder with Toad to remedy his disenchantment. Children are as much a part of the community as their parents are. They can contribute much like the characters do: with kindness and love.

Arden Theatre doesn't talk down to kids with their children's theater. Instead, they empower their young audience.

Coon says now that he's older with his own children, the play has more significance entering 2017. "What does it mean to have a really good friend? How does that friend take care of you and how do you take care of them?" He concluded, "Frog and Toad are very polite to each other. It's stylized, but there's something refreshing and soothing about watching a group of individuals be kind and want to take care of each other, especially given the experiences we've cumulatively had this year."

"A Year with Frog and Toad," directed by Whit MacLaughlin, is currently running at The Arden Theatre through Jan. 29. Tickets range from \$20-\$36. For more information, visit arden-theatre.org.

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Latkepalooza

It's one of the most anticipated events of the holiday season: Latkepalooza features more than 3,500 latkes from chefs around the city — from traditional varieties to unique creations by folks at Federal Donuts, Mission Taqueria, Circles Thai and more. Your \$20 gets you 10 of these delicious potato pancakes on top of an afternoon of live entertainment and arts and crafts activities. Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m. Gershman Y 401 S. Broad St. \$20, gershmany.org

Center, 601 N. Lansdowne Ave. \$8-\$12, updac.org

Peek-a-Boo Revue Holiday Spectacular

For all of you on Santa's naughty list, Peek-a-Boo Revue brings back its annual Holiday Spectacular, featuring the troupe's trademark striptease shenanigans with a seasonal twist. The Striptease Orchestra provides the tunes, while the lineup of beauties show off their tassel-twirling prowess and maybe even a bare bottom or two. Intrigued? You're getting a lump of coal in your stocking, for sure. Dec. 18, 8-11 p.m. World Cafe Live 3025 Walnut St. \$25, peekaboorevue.com

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Jingle Bell Rock GayBINGO!

A gaggle of drag queens decked in tinsel, wigs as high as a Christmas tree and whatever else they can pull from the local holiday store host this night of bingo and general holiday irreverence to benefit AIDS Fund and area tots. Guests are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be given to a child infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Gershman Y 401 S. Broad St. \$25-\$30, aidsfundphilly.org

Cancer is Ugly! Ugly Sweater Party

Head to City Tap House in your ugliest holiday sweater for this soiree that benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Besides the warm fuzzy feeling of doing something kind, your ticket grants you an open bar, light fare and live music. One lucky attendee whose sweater

is deemed "ugliest" will win an employee discount at City Tap House for a year.

Dec. 17, 8-10 p.m. City Tap House Logan Square 2 Logan Square \$50, citytaphouselogan.com

ART

Barnes Open House and Holiday Market

On Friday night, The Barnes opens its doors for a free after-hours tour of its latest special — and must-see — exhibit "Live and Life Will Give You Pictures." When you're finished exploring the masterworks of French photography, head to the museum's Annenberg Court for a pop-up holiday market. Local vendors set up shop to sell their wares, wine purveyors offer tastings and you can snap an old-school selfie in an on-site photo booth. Dec. 16, 5-8 p.m. The Barnes Foundation

2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway Free, barnesfoundation.org

BOOKS

Wesley Lowery

Washington Post reporter Wesley Lowery comes to the Free Library for a conversation about his new book, "They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement." Lowery and his team at the Post won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for coverage of police shootings. At the library, he'll be joined by AP reporter Errin Haines Whack for an in-depth Q&A about that experience and his insightful new read. Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. Central Branch of the Free Library 1901 Vine St. Free, freelibrary.org

Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. Central Branch of the Free Library 1901 Vine St. Free, freelibrary.org JOSH MIDDLETON

HOLIDAY TOURS

Holiday Lights Ride

The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia leads a two-wheeled tour of South Philly holiday lights, including the extravaganza that is Miracle on 13th Street. Tours leave from the starting point every 10 minutes from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Guests are invited to deck out their own wheels for the occasion for a chance to win a prize for jolliest bike. Afterward meet the entire caravan at an after-party at Garage South Philly, right across from Geno's and Pat's. Dec. 15, 5:15 p.m. Performance Bikes parking lot

1300 Christopher Columbus Blvd., \$5-\$35 donation bicyclecoalition.org

Center City Holiday Tour

Every day through the end of the year, Philly Tour Hub embarks on two strolls around Center City to experience some of Philadelphia's most festive holiday traditions. The three-hour trek includes stops at the light and sound show at Macy's, Reading Terminal Market, the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul and more. You can choose the 1 p.m. tour, or opt for a nighttime walk to see the lights in all their

glory at 5 p.m. Daily through Dec. 31 1 and 5 p.m. Dilworth Park at Rosa Blanca Cafe, 1 S. 15th St. \$39, phillytourhub.com

SPECTACULARS

Shooting Stars' Holiday Spectacular

The holidays meet "Glee" meets Broadway at this enthusiastic holiday revue featuring youth from the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center. Adorned in sparkly threads and moving about a stage decked with Christmas trees, lights and other seasonal accoutrements, the kids perform toe-tapping holiday favorites like "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Sparkle Jolly Twinkle Jingle." OK, that last one may not be a well-known "favorite," but you know you want to hear it. Dec. 16-17 Upper Darby Performing Arts

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WAYS TO GIVE BACK

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Make a wish at Christmas Village: PROVIDED

Charity Weekend at Christmas Village

Shuffle down to the Christmas Village this weekend for a great opportunity to give back this holiday season. The Village is partnering with the Make a Wish Foundation to offer guests a chance to donate to the charity that grants wishes to youth with life-threatening diseases. There are multiple ways to give, including purchasing an ornament at the info booth and hanging it on the Wish Wall.

Dec. 17-18
Christmas Village, 1400 JFK Blvd.
Pay as you go, philachristmas.com

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ALISON ZEIDMAN (@ALISONZEIDMAN); ILLUSTRATION BY NANCY SAMILOW



Local gift ideas for the foodie in your life

The only thing better than giving is eating.



JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

We all have that friend who's obsessed with food. If there's a new restaurant in town, you can bet they've already been there and have the Instagram photos to prove it. But what on earth do you buy that friend for Christmas? For the foodie who's already eaten everything, here are a few local gift ideas that will tantalize her taste buds.



Monthly coffee subscription

You know what the worst feeling in the world is? Waking up to find that you ran out of coffee. To help the foodie in your life avoid this catastrophe, buy him a coffee subscription to Philly's own Rival Bros Coffee. You can opt for one bag of freshly ground coffee delivered to his door monthly for an entire year for \$205. Prefer one blend over another? Send Rival Bros an email for any special requests.
Rival Bros Coffee
2400 Lombard St.
rivalbros.com, \$205

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Alfajores gift box

If you want to know a shortcut to a well-traveled woman's heart, alfajores are the answer. No, you don't need to hop a plane to Argentina — you just need to head down to Jezabel's Cafe in Fitter's Square. These shortbread cookies have a dulce de leche center and are rolled in coconut. Each set contains six alfajores. *Que rico!*

Jezabel's Cafe
2536 Pine St.
jezabelscfe.com, \$18

Marcie Blaine Chocolates

Located inside the adorable boutique Verde, Marcie Blaine Artisanal Chocolates are hand-crafted onsite in an open chocolate kitchen by Chef Marcie Turney. These local delicacies are made with fresh Lancaster Country cream, butter and herbs, honey and other ingredients from nearby farms. They have a special Philly series with candies like Love Park (made with raspberry ganache) and the Soft Pretzel (made with peanut-butter pretzel ganache).

Marcie Blaine Chocolates
108 S. 13th St.
marcieblaine.com, various prices



Mulled wine

Nothing goes better with your baked cheese than a glass of hot mulled wine. Chaddsford Winery has two seasonal varieties — Holiday Spirit (a red spiced wine with cinnamon and cloves) and Spiced Apple Wine (an apple wine mixed with cinnamon). You can drink it cold, but heating it up is best. It is also at Christmas Village this year if you're a city dweller and don't feel like making the trek all the way out to Chadds Ford. **Chaddsford Winery**
632 Baltimore Pike
chaddsford.com \$13.99



LAUREN MAME THOMAS

Brunkow's Baked Cheese

Any day is made brighter with cheese, but imagine the look of joy on your favorite foodie's face when you give them Finnish Juustalepia or "bread cheese." The fresh cheese is baked to form a yummy outer crust that resembles bread and makes for great hors d'oeuvres (or if you're Liz Lemon, night cheese for one). Brunkow came all the way from Wisconsin to sell its various baked cheeses at Christmas Village, so best to go in person and stock up.

Christmas Village at City Hall
1400 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
philachristmas.com, \$6 each



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WEEK 46 12/12-12/18

Last-minute gifts for the fashion-forward

Skip a trip to the mall and hit up Philly's independent retailers this holiday season.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If you still haven't found a gift for the fashion lover on your shopping list, fear not! There are plenty of last-minute options in Philly for one-of-a-kind unisex fashion. Here are five style-forward picks that would be a welcome addition to any closet.



Toting around town

Whether your friend is hauling groceries or all the contents of her purse, the adorable totes at Open House will be a cute and thoughtful gift. The pretzel tote is a classic nod to Philadelphia that will help your friend show her appreciation for our beautiful city. Totes are \$24 each.

Open House
107 S. 13th St.
(215) 922-1415
openhouseliving.com

Put a ring on it

No one needs to go it alone. The Wolf Pack Ring made by Concrete Polish Jewels comes in sterling silver or gold-plated silver. This and other rings at Northern Liberties boutique Ritual Ritual can be styled to be cute, edgy and everything in between. The Wolf Pack ring starts at \$105.

Ritual Ritual
819 N. 2nd St.
(267) 606-6082
ritualritual.com



MADELINE PRESLAND

Bag upgrade

It's the perfect gift for the friend who is always on the go. The Madden backpacks at Art in the Age in Old City are bold, simple and definitely a step up from a worn-out backpack that has been beaten, battered and seen it all. Backpacks start at \$100.

Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction
116 N. 3rd St.
(215) 922-2600
artintheage.com

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Keeping time

A watch is a classy and classic gift, and the wooden watches from Analog Watch Co. catch the eye with a look that is both rustic and modern. Not a fan of wood? Analog makes marble watches and timepieces that have a more traditional design. Prices start at \$150.

Analog Watch Co.
1737 E. Passyunk Ave.
(484) 808-5831
analogwatchco.com



Not the worst gift ever!

Socks aren't just for the naughty kids. Giving a pair of soft and cozy Blue Q socks will make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside. South Philly boutique Occasionette has a pop-up shop in Old City, and the sock choices are perfect stocking stuffers. Each pair is \$12.

Occasionette Holiday Pop Up
38 S. 3rd St.
(215) 465-1704
occasionette.com



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Land of Nod fridge play food, \$29, landofnod.com



Not all toys have to be neon

Candylab Pioneer car, \$41.99, candylabtoys.com

Continued on page 26
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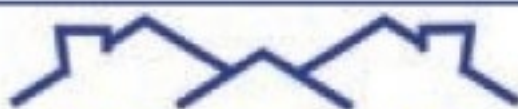
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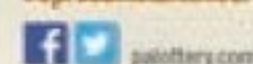
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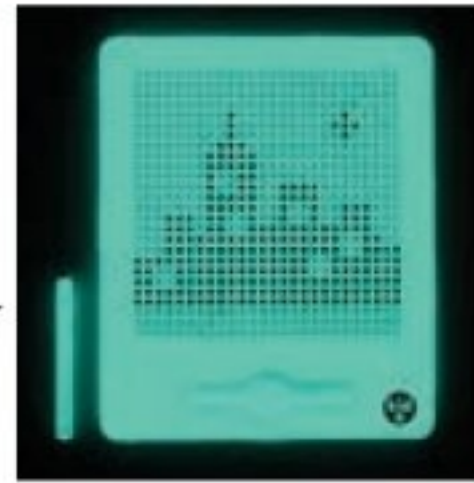
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Try a different tablet for size

O Toys jumbo glow-in-the-dark "Magnatab," \$34.99, target.com

And you thought Jenga was tricky

Marbles the Brain Store "Tugie" stacking game, \$19.99, marblesthebrainstore.com



That's one cool bird

Flavia Flamingo, \$24, anthropologie.com

For when the hoop's frozen over

Westminster Toys "Hoop Shoot" basketball play set, \$37.99, nordstrom.com



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RIVERRINK.COM
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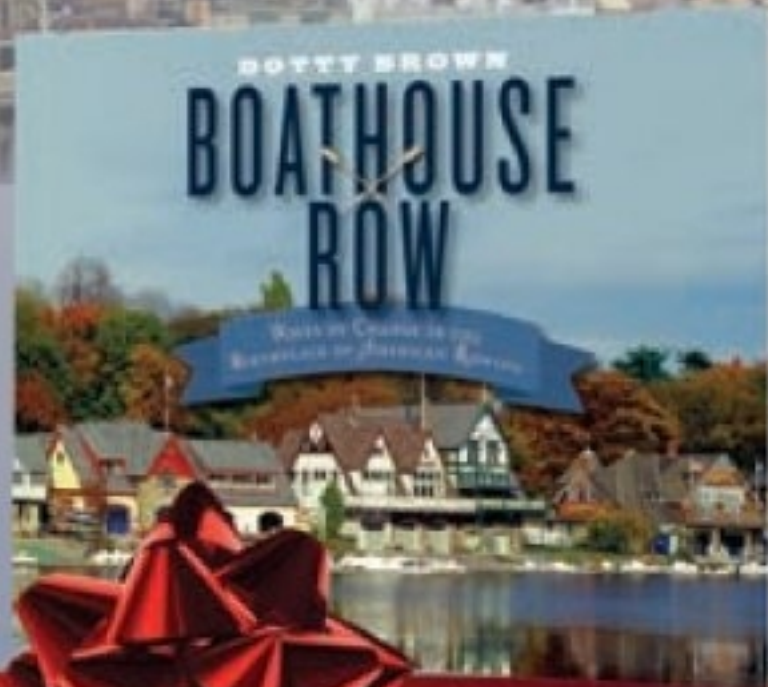
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Winter brings tons of festivals across the country.

Snow-covered mountains and frozen lakes remain part of the landscape well past New Year's in northern regions across the continent, and residents who live in chilly locales opt to venture out to enjoy the weather rather than hole up indoors. Festivals and carnivals featuring ice sculptures, sled dog races, sleigh rides and more give travelers a chance to join locals in fun annual traditions.

Plunge Fest

There are polar bear plunges — where people dive into frigid water in the middle of winter — all over the country, but Plungefest in Annapolis, Maryland, is the biggest of all. Attracting more than 25,000 plungers and spectators, this is the coolest way to raise money for charity. With proceeds benefitting Special Olympics Maryland, you've got a great excuse to take a dip in the Chesapeake Bay. If you're



Saranac Lake Winter Carnival ROB MAEDO

not into frostbite, there's also a carnival, giant sand sculptures and live music to keep you entertained.

Fur Rendezvous

Winter can run long in Anchorage, with extra months of snow and freezing temperatures. That's exactly why the first Fur Rendezvous was initiated back in 1935, to break up those long,

cold winter months with sports, games and a torchlight parade. Today, "rondy" has grown into a 10-day celebration of Alaskan life, featuring men's snowshoe softball, a grand prix auto race, a "running of the reindeer" event, a native arts market and a "blanket toss" — a native Alaskan tradition in which a person is tossed from a blanket high into the

air to scan the ocean for whales. The cornerstone of the festival is the world championship sled dog race, which attracts teams of sled dogs and mushers from all over the world.

Ouray Ice Climbing Festival

The biggest ice climbing festival in North America takes place every January

in southwestern Colorado, in the small town of Ouray. Even if you have no interest in climbing, the park is a must-see with jaw-dropping walls of blue ice lining the rugged Uncompahgre Gorge. This year's Ouray Ice Climbing Festival events include climbing competitions, demonstrations, clinics, presentations, films, and a gear expo. Beginners can try ice

climbing on the 30-foot practice wall, known by locals as the Kids' Wall.

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival

What began as an attempt to break up the monotony of winter in New York's Adirondack wilderness has evolved into the longest-running event of its kind in the eastern U.S. The Saranac Lake Winter Carnival boasts run-of-the-mill winter sports like nordic skiing and ice-skating, but also hosts off-the-wall competitions like ultimate arctic frisbee and a women's frying pan toss. Saranac Lake's annual themed parade (this year's is "celtic carnival") is also not to be missed, but perhaps the biggest draw is the famed ice palace—a mammoth structure made with anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 ice blocks, weighing up to 800 pounds each.

Snowfest

Every spring for more than 30 years, the resorts on the north (and now

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west) side of Lake Tahoe in Nevada come together to throw a 10-day winter sports extravaganza. Far from childhood summer vacation memories on the lake, the North Lake Tahoe Snowfest features an icy plunge into the largest alpine lake in North America. Locals love the Tahoe Donner Ididarun, in which dogs pull covered sleds across a snow-covered course.

Insider tip:
Don't miss Rahlves Banzai Tour, a rip-roaring ski/boarder-cross event created by former Olympian Daron Rahlves.

Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival

The Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival in Colorado has a true Western flavor, with horses as the stars of the carnival's happenings along the town's main street. There are shovel races — participants sit on shovels pulled by horses — and an event in which skiers hang onto a lasso held by a cowboy on horseback. On the mountains outside town,



St. Paul Winter Carnival DARRIN JOHNSON

there's everything from ski jumping competitions to slalom races. There's also a biathlon that involves athletes dressed in vintage fur trapper's clothing who ski and simultaneously shoot black powder muzzleloaders.

Insider tip:
Don't miss the opening ceremony with the "lighted man"—a skier who slaloms

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down a dark mountain with roman candles and rockets shooting from his costume.

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Can anyone guard Villanova's Josh Hart?

The Temple Owls had zero success against Hart and the No. 1 team in the country as they swept another Big 5 slate.

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All-America candidate Josh Hart is a tough guard for any player in the country. Freshman Quinton Rose on Temple (7-4) found this out the hard way in Temple's 78-57 loss to No. 1 Villanova (11-0) on Tuesday night at the Pavilion.

Whether driving into the paint for a layup, passing through traffic or defending on the perimeter, Hart made Rose's night miserable and forgettable as Temple's blossoming star couldn't get anything going the entire game.

Rose finished with just seven points on 3 of 9 shooting along with 4 turnovers. As a team, Temple had a season-high 18 turnovers.

"Hart was Josh Hart



Temple is just the latest college basketball team left scratching its head after facing Josh Hart and Villanova. GETTY IMAGES

there," Temple coach Fran Dunphy said following the loss. "In the second half, those couple of threes he made were daggers for us. And we didn't have a whole lot of opportunity to respond."

Hart finished with 26 points on 10 of 19 shooting and wreaked havoc on the defensive end all night. He's averaging 20.1 points, 6.5 rebounds

and 3.7 assists on the season and has the Wildcats running on all cylinders.

"When I have coach [Jay Wright] on me, [associate head coach] Baker Dunleavy on me, and my teammates are holding me accountable, I'm just focused on making the right play," Hart said postgame. "It's not like coming off a good game, I have to put up 25, or I have to do this or do that. I just try to have a clear mind about things."

Nothing was working in the Owls favor all night as junior forward Obi Enechionya, who entered the contest averaging 18.6 points, 7.7 rebounds, and 2.9 blocks, was held to a season low

of eight points on 3 of 9 shooting himself to go along with six turnovers.

"I think we did a great job on [Enechionya]," Wright said. "We did a good job on him. I think he's one of the best players in the country, I really do. We really wanted to try to limit his touches."

Temple will have to brush off the loss quickly as they face what many would call a trap game on Saturday against NJIT (5-6). The Highlanders are fielding one of the top scorers in the country of their own in guard Damon Lynn, who's averaging 22.0 points per game.

Saturday's game will air at 2 p.m. on ESPN3.



DeSean Jackson will be a free agent at season's end. GETTY IMAGES

Why Jackson needs the Eagles, and why they need him

DeSean Jackson's departure from Philadelphia was the first in a series of roster moves (most masterminded by Chip Kelly) that took the Eagles from NFC champs to a deep rebuild in three long seasons.

The wideout returned to Philadelphia for the fifth time since being cut Sunday and later signed by Washington after the 2013 season, and like he did every other time coming out of the visitor's locker room at Lincoln Financial Field, he torched the Eagles.

"I've just been fortunate that I've been able to come back and make some big plays against my former team, but regardless of who it is I enjoy doing it," Jackson told the media just after catching three passes for 112 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown sprint with a little taunting at the end of it. Jackson's big play was his 22nd career 60-yard (or more) catch and he's now the second best big play wideout in NFL history, trailing Jerry Rice by just one bomb in that category.

According to ESPN's Adam Schefter and a few other sources, including (depending on how you interpret his words) the man himself, Jackson could be in play to return to Philly in 2017,

"We'll see what happens. You never know how it'll play out."

Jackson

when he becomes a free agent.

Jackson spoke about how he did not want to leave, upon being cut, and reportedly had beef with Kelly while the coach was here. Now that one of his former coaches, Doug Pederson, is calling the shots, the coaching situation is ripe for a return.

The speedster could be a perfect fit in Philadelphia. With Carson Wentz keeping the Eagles receiving corps together with duct tape and baling wire. With youth and inexperience in the wide receivers room, Jackson would be just over 30 and a veteran presence. He'd also be a big help offensively.

His deep threat would spread out the defense, taking the top off and opening the middle of the field for slot receiver Jordan Matthews and tight end Zach Ertz, each sure to be a big part of the team next season.

EVAN MACY

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1


Patriots
(11-2)

Maybe it was Tom Brady's suspension or maybe the ascendancy of teams like the Cowboys or Raiders, but this seems like a quieter Patriots season than most. That shouldn't be the case when they're taking the field against the No. 1 defense in the NFL and dropping 500 yards on them.

No. 2

Chiefs
(10-3)


After two victories against the Raiders and a 4-0 record in the AFC West, there's no question about who the cream of the division is. And of course, the Chiefs have now risen to the top. It's by no means a safe perch, but they can set their eyes on home-field if the Pats slip up.

No. 3

Cowboys
(11-2)


Is it concerning or promising that Dallas' defense has been outplaying their offense the past few weeks? Hopefully they can avoid a matchup with the Giants in the playoffs, but the offense won't face easier opponents the next couple weeks.

No. 4

Raiders
(10-3)


In two games against the Chiefs, the NFL's 24th ranked offense, the Raiders have been outscored 47-23 and outvictoried 2-0. Pretty sad showing for the sixth ranked offense in the league. But this really shouldn't take the shine off the Raiders season.

No. 5

Lions
(9-4)


Seems like Detroit didn't like the idea of winning comfortably, as they got back in the comfortable groove of trailing in the fourth quarter this week. If you take issue with Detroit being ranked ahead of the Giants, that will sort itself out Sunday.

No. 6

Giants
(9-4)


There's no time for New York to feel good about their bragging rights over the Cowboys after a second win against them this season: They have a potential playoff preview matchup with Detroit this weekend. They have the inside track on the wild card ... for now.

No. 7

Seahawks
(8-4-1)


This was a weird game, and not just because of the result. How about Russell Wilson doubling his season touchdown total by tossing five picks? Far more troubling was Aaron Rodgers smashing the Packers offense through Seattle's defense for his best game of the season.

No. 8

Falcons
(8-5)


No Julio Jones? No Mohamed Sanu? Barely any Devonta Freeman? No problem for Matt Ryan and the Falcons defense, who stepped up big in dismantling the Rams. They didn't just dismantle them on the field either. They literally took apart the Los Angeles Rams.

No. 9

Packers
(7-6)


If the Packers can get to their Week 17 matchup with Detroit within one game of the Lions, they'll be playing for the division. With their 34-27 September victory over the Lions in hand, a win in the season finale would ensure any tiebreaker went the Packers' way.

No. 10

Steelers
(8-5)


First place in the division all alone, it's been awhile since the Steelers have been here, somewhat shockingly. With a game lead and a game against the Ravens upcoming (and Cleveland in Week 17), a victory against Baltimore in Week 16 likely gives them the division.

- 11 — Buccaneers (8-5)
- 12 — Ravens (7-6)
- 13 — Broncos (7-5)
- 14 — Redskins (7-5-1)
- 15 — Dolphins (8-5)
- 16 — Titans (7-6)
- 17 — Texans (7-6)
- 18 — Vikings (7-6)
- 19 — Colts (6-7)
- 20 — Bills (6-7)
- 21 — Cardinals (5-7-1)
- 22 — Bengals (5-7-1)
- 23 — Saints (5-8)
- 24 — Eagles (5-8)
- 25 — Panthers (5-8)
- 26 — Chargers (5-8)

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HIGH ON POWELL, HILL,
SOUND ALARM ON INGRAM

OPINION


BILL DUBIEL

Are you still alive in the playoffs? Be sure to check out Rotoballer.com's Fantasy Football Waiver Wire Tool for up-to-the-hour waiver wire advice:

Bet on Bilal

Once Matt Forte exited the Jets' Week 14 win over the 49ers, Bilal Powell absolutely took over. The dynamic running back exploded for 145 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries, and chipped in 34 yards on five receptions. It was revealed after the game that Matt Forte would be going for an MRI to discover if there is any damage in his knee, and if he's inactive you can bet on Powell to answer the call.

No Max, no Mark

Mark Ingram has now sputtered in three of his last four games, and



Bilal Powell has been a good bet to find the end zone recently. GETTY IMAGES

has been particularly dreadful in his last two. He was without Pro Bowl center Max Unger in Week 14, and it showed — he gained just 23 total yards on nine touches, including a miserable 7-14-0 rushing line. His incompetence brought the return of his timeshare with Tim Hightower, who outgained Ingram with two fewer touches.

Tyreek the freak

Jeremy Maclin is no more.

All-purpose weapon Tyreek Hill is the new top dog on perhaps the least-talked about playoff team. Hill has been producing in all aspects of offense and special teams, posting 20 catches and two touchdowns over his last three weeks while adding in a rushing touchdown and a punt return touchdown. With that kind of scoring potential in three different facets of the game, Hill is a must-start in the fantasy playoffs.

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metro.us /games

Across

- 1 Grey Cup org.
- 4 Flows out
- 8 Arroyo
- 12 Go it alone
- 13 Plains Indian of Canada
- 14 Queen of the Misty Isles
- 16 Sgts. and such
- 17 Order for dinner
- 18 Rubbed the wrong way
- 19 Item in a poker pot
- 20 They pry but not jimmy (2 wds.)
- 22 Wingdings
- 24 Comply with
- 25 Mo. portions
- 26 Burrito morsel
- 28 Sitter's handful
- 31 Comic -- Mandel
- 34 Is situated
- 35 Where to do laps
- 36 Nile sun god
- 37 Zen riddles
- 38 Freud's daughter
- 39 Bona -- (genuine)
- 40 Type of pad
- 41 Annoying
- 42 Half a dangerous fly
- 43 Undersized
- 44 Travel word
- 45 Solar radiation
- 47 Established

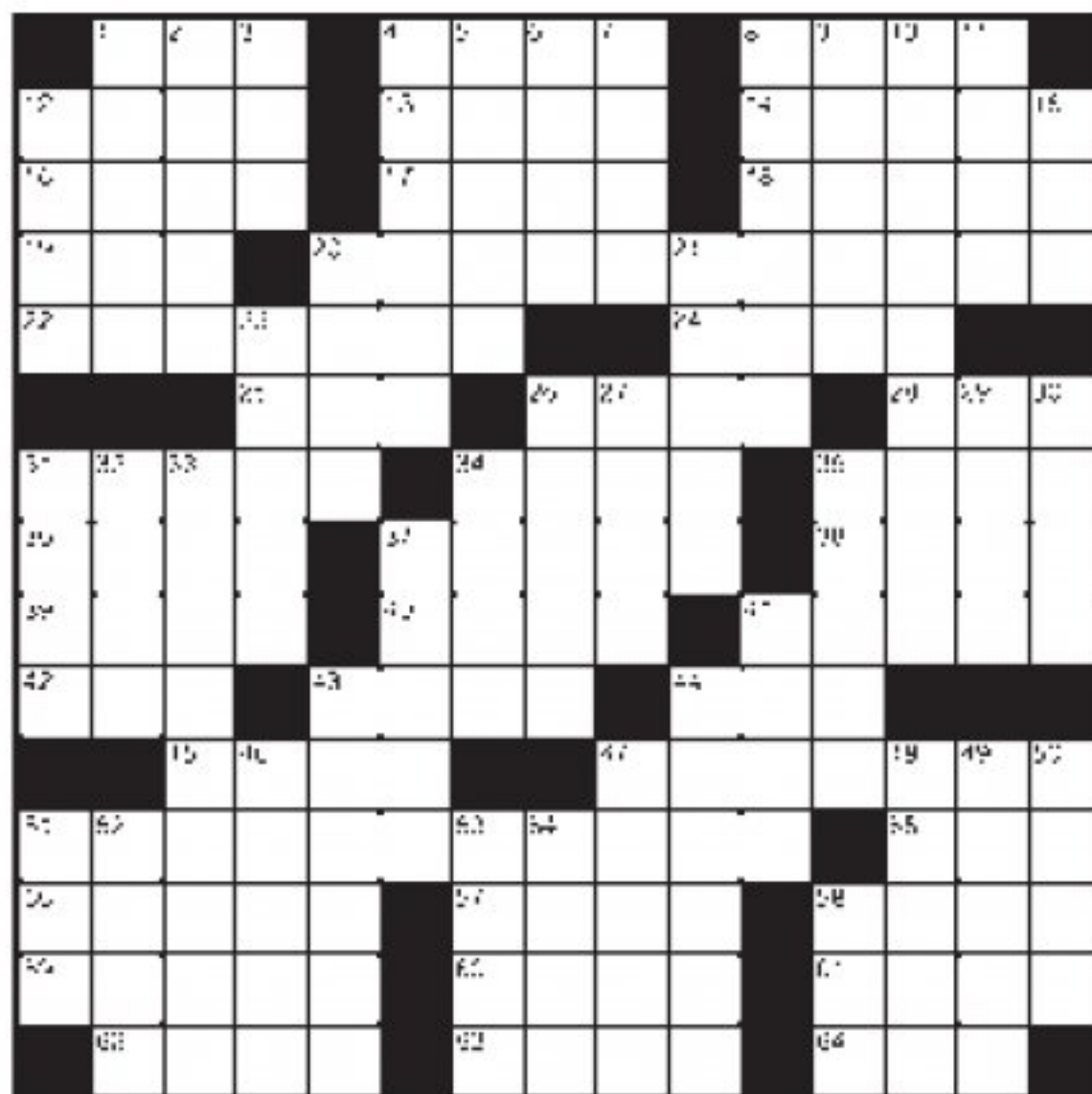
- 51 Pub extras (2 wds.)
- 55 Cow chow
- 56 Shake awake
- 57 Pasta-sauce brand
- 58 Get along
- 59 Peer Gynt creator
- 60 "Garfield" pooch
- 61 Sacked out
- 62 On its way
- 63 Vets' concern
- 64 Buy at auction

Down

- 1 Winter warmer
- 2 Bread base
- 3 -- Alamos
- 4 Mountain refrains
- 5 Copper and zinc

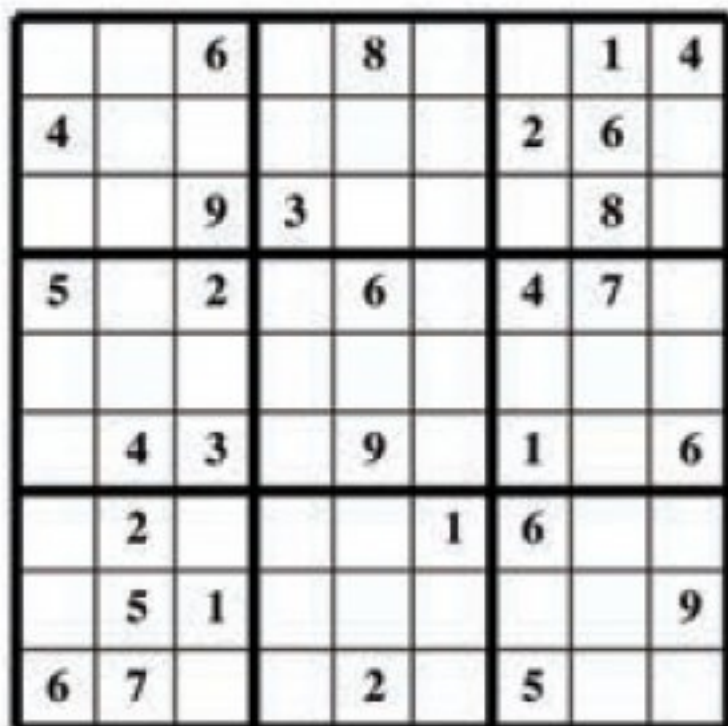
- 6 Throng
- 7 Ooze out
- 8 Rabbit's home
- 9 Comparable
- 10 They're struck out
- 11 Body passage
- 12 Swatch
- 15 Mag fillers
- 20 Winged Victory
- 21 Pile up
- 23 Wind about
- 26 Onion-flavored roll
- 27 Counting-rhyme start
- 29 Friar
- 30 Join in a game
- 31 Knife handle
- 32 Name in elevators
- 33 Novelist P.G. --
- 34 Pork selection
- 35 Triumphal outburst
- 37 Oscar film for Jane Fonda
- 41 World War II pope
- 43 Copyright kin
- 44 Trends
- 46 Ruhr Valley city
- 47 Tempus --
- 48 Abu --
- 49 Like a teacup
- 50 -- in-the-wool
- 51 Part of TGIF
- 52 Thieves from
- 53 Globule
- 54 You've got it --!
- 58 Groovy

metro.us/crossword

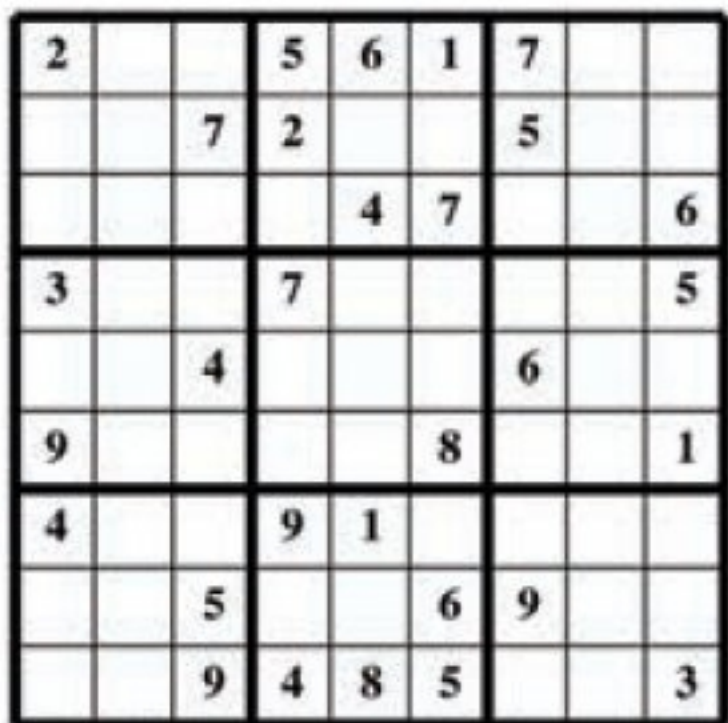


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Problems will surface if you or someone you live with has been indulgent or impractical. Take action to turn things around in a positive manner.



Taurus Making alterations to your home to accommodate upcoming events will put added pressure on you and your bankbook. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance.



Gemini Money matters are best looked at carefully. You may think you have more to spend than you do. Look for sales, and budget your end-of-year expenses carefully.



Cancer Emotions will escalate when dealing with matters concerning children or your budget. Try to live within your means. Discuss your plans before you proceed.



Leo Secrets are best kept. Don't feel the need to make a last-minute decision just because someone else does. Protect your assets and position.



Virgo Plan to do something with children, or get together with a friend who shares similar interests. A shopping expedition will lead to bargains, but limit your expenses.



Libra Last-minute changes will lead to uncertainty and confusion. Making a fuss will cause bad feelings. Listen, observe and consider your options.



Scorpio Discuss your plans with someone you respect. Your options will expand because of the suggestions made. A change at home will allow you to pursue a venture.



Sagittarius You need to step up when it comes to long-gestating projects. If you face facts and answer questions, you will be able to move forward stress-free.



Capricorn Share your feelings, but don't let situations escalate to a point of no return. Stay calm, be straightforward and stick to what you know is within your means.



Aquarius A closer look at your bank statement will help ease your mind. Get your house in order, both literally and figuratively, before the end of the year.



Pisces Get together with someone you haven't seen for quite a while. Catching up will give you insight into new possibilities for an interesting new year. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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